Slåtter (Norwegian Peasant Dances), Op. 72

Slåtter (Norwegische Bauerntänze)

PREFACE.

These Norwegian "Slåtter" ("Slåt" is the usual Norwegian name for the peasant's dance), now for the first time brought before the public in their original form for the violin (or for the so-called Hardanger-fiddle) and re-arranged for the piano, were written down after an old gleeman in Telemarken. Those who can appreciate such music, will be delighted at the originality, the blending of fine, soft gracefulness with sturdy almost uncouth power and untamed wildness as regards melody and more particularly rhythm, contained in them. This music,—which is handed down to us from an age when the culture of the Norwegian peasant was isolated in its solitary mountain-valleys from the outer world, to which fact it owes its whole originality,—bears the stamp of an imagination as daring in its flight as it is peculiar.

My object in arranging the music for the piano was to raise these works of the people to an artistic level, by giving them what I might call a style of musical concord, or bringing them under a system of harmony. Naturally, many of the little embellishments, characteristic of the peasant's fiddle and of their peculiar manner of bowing, cannot be reproduced on the piano, and had accordingly to be left out. On the other hand, by virtue of its manifold dynamic and rhythmic qualities, the piano affords the great advantage of enabling us to avoid a monotonous uniformity, by varying the harmony of repeated passages or parts. I have endeavoured to make myself clear in the lines set forth, in fact, to obtain a definite form. The few passages in which I considered myself authorized as an artist, to add to, or work out the given motives, will easily be found, on comparing my arrangement with the original, written down by Johan Halvorsen, in a manner reliable even for research-work, and published by the same firm.

The "Slåtter" sound a minor third higher, when played on the peasant's fiddle; nevertheless, I have retained the key in which the original is written down, in order to obtain a fuller effect on the piano.

FORORD.

Disse norske „Slåtter" (Slåt er det norske Udtryk for Bondedans) som for første Gang i Originaloptegnelse for Hardangerviolinen og i fri Bearbeidelse for Pianoforte overgives til Offentligheden, er nedskrevet efter en gammel Spillemand i Telemarken. Hvem der har Sans for disse Klange vil henføres af deres store Originalitet, deres Blanding af fin og skjær Ynde med djærv Kraft og utæmmet Vildhed i melodisk, som især i rytmisk Henseende. De bærer Præget af en ligeså dristig, som bizar Fantasi, disse Levninger fra en Tid, da den norske Bondekultur var afstængt fra Udenverdenen i de afsidesliggende Fjelddale og netop derfor har bevaret hele sin Oprindelighed.

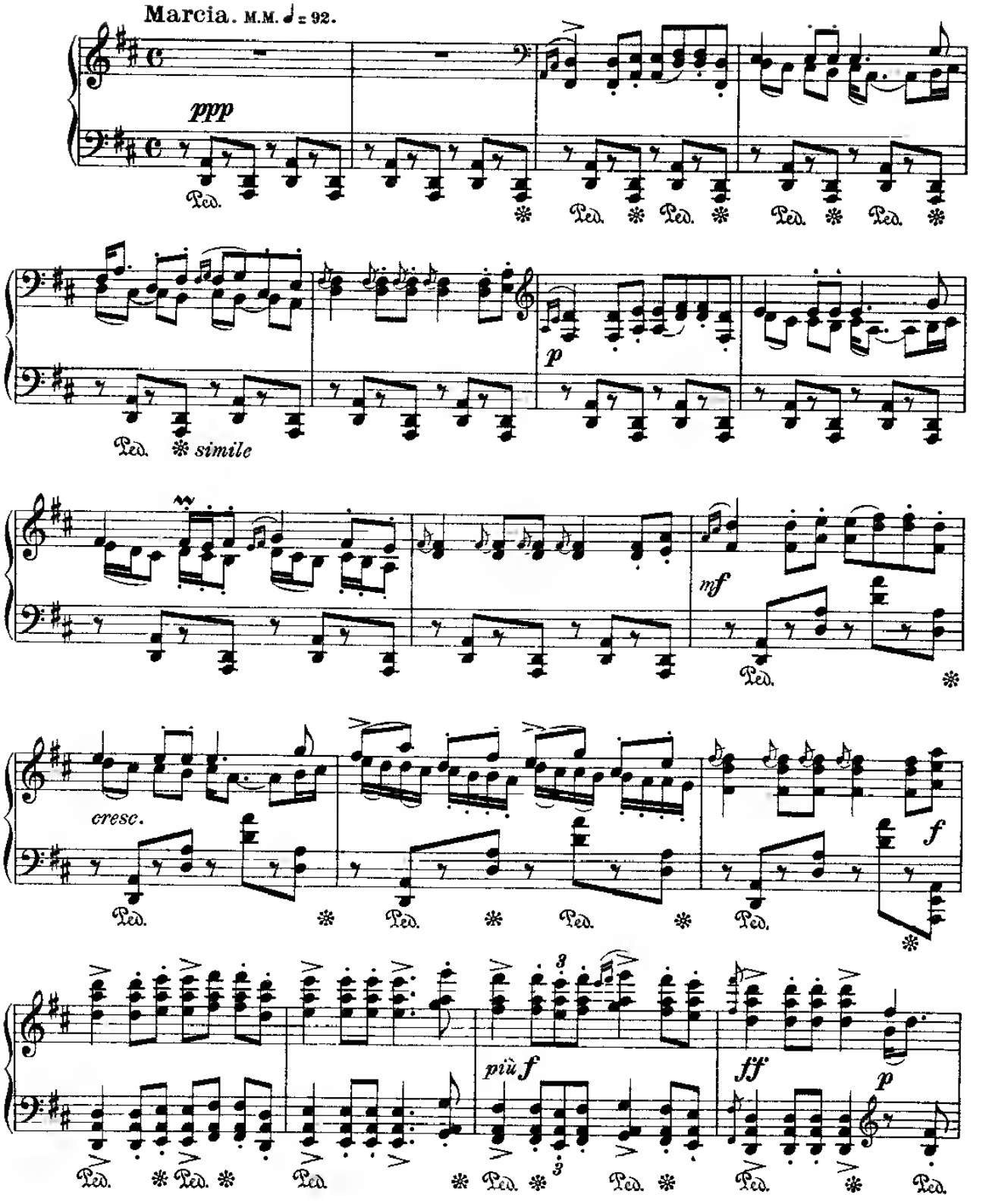
Min Opgave ved Overføringen til Pianoet var et Forsøg på, gjennem, lad mig kalde det stiliseret Harmonik at hæve disse Folketoner op til et kunstnerisk Niveau. Det ligger i Sagens Natur, at Klaveret måtte give Afkald på mange af de små Forsiringer, der bunder i Hardangerfelens Karakter og Bueføringens Ejendommelighed. Til Gjenjæld har Klaveret den store Fordel, gjennem dynamisk og rytmisk Mangfoldighed, samt gjennem ny Harmonisering af Gjentagelserne at kunne undgå en altfor fremtrædende Ensformighed. Jeg har bestræbt mig for at optrække klare, overskuelige Linjer, overhovedet at skabe en fast Form. De få Steder, hvor jeg holdt det for kunstnerisk berettiget at bygge videre på de foreliggende Motiver, vil man let udfinde ved at sammenligne min Bearbeidelse med den samtidig på samme Forlag udkomne Originaloptegnelse af Johan Halvorsen, der er at betragte som Kildeskrift.

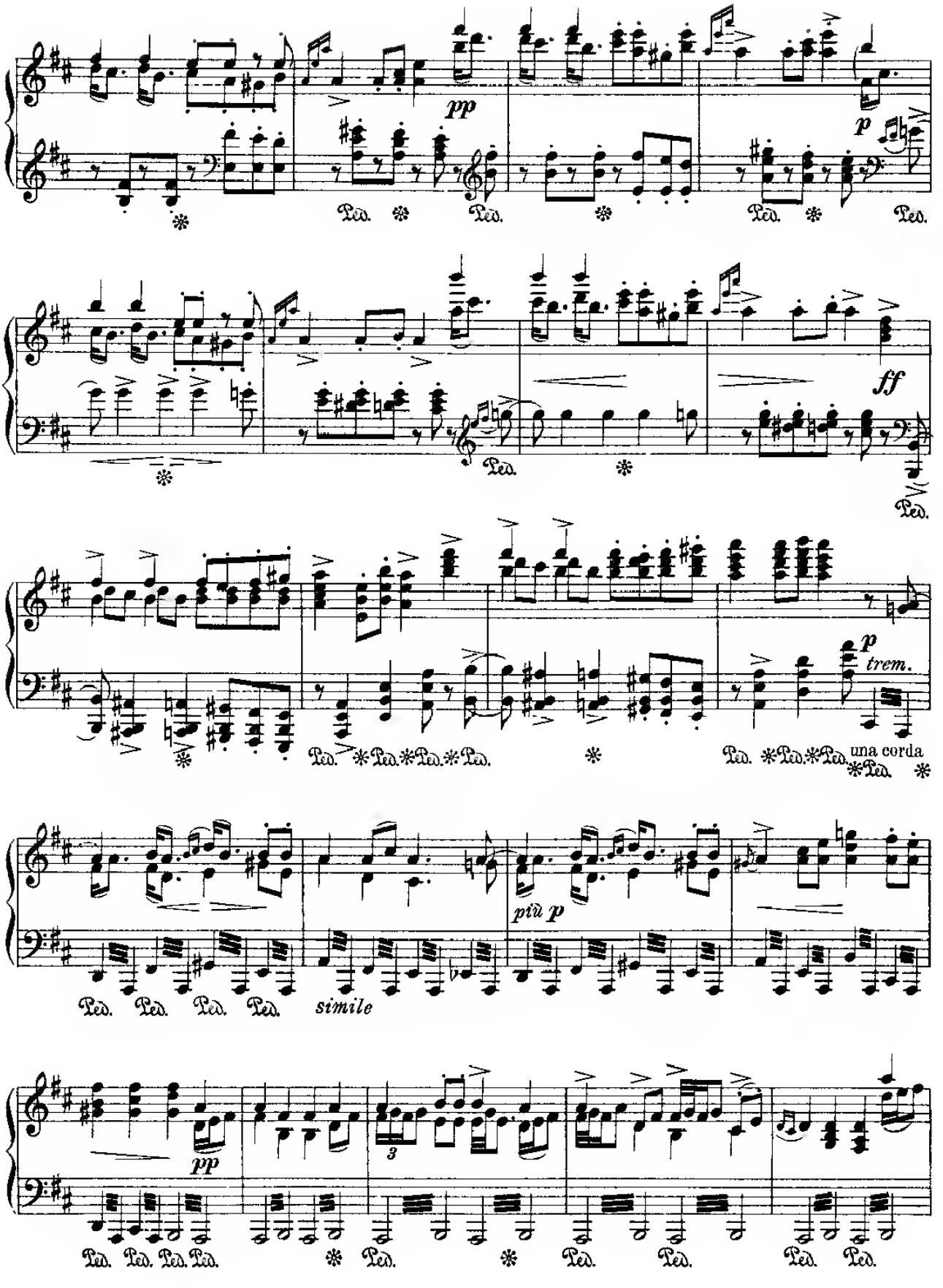
Tiltrods for at Slåtterne på Hardangerfelen klinger en liden Terts højere, har jeg dog, forat opnå en fyldigere Klaevirkning, valgt at beholde den Toneart, hvori Originalen er optegnet.

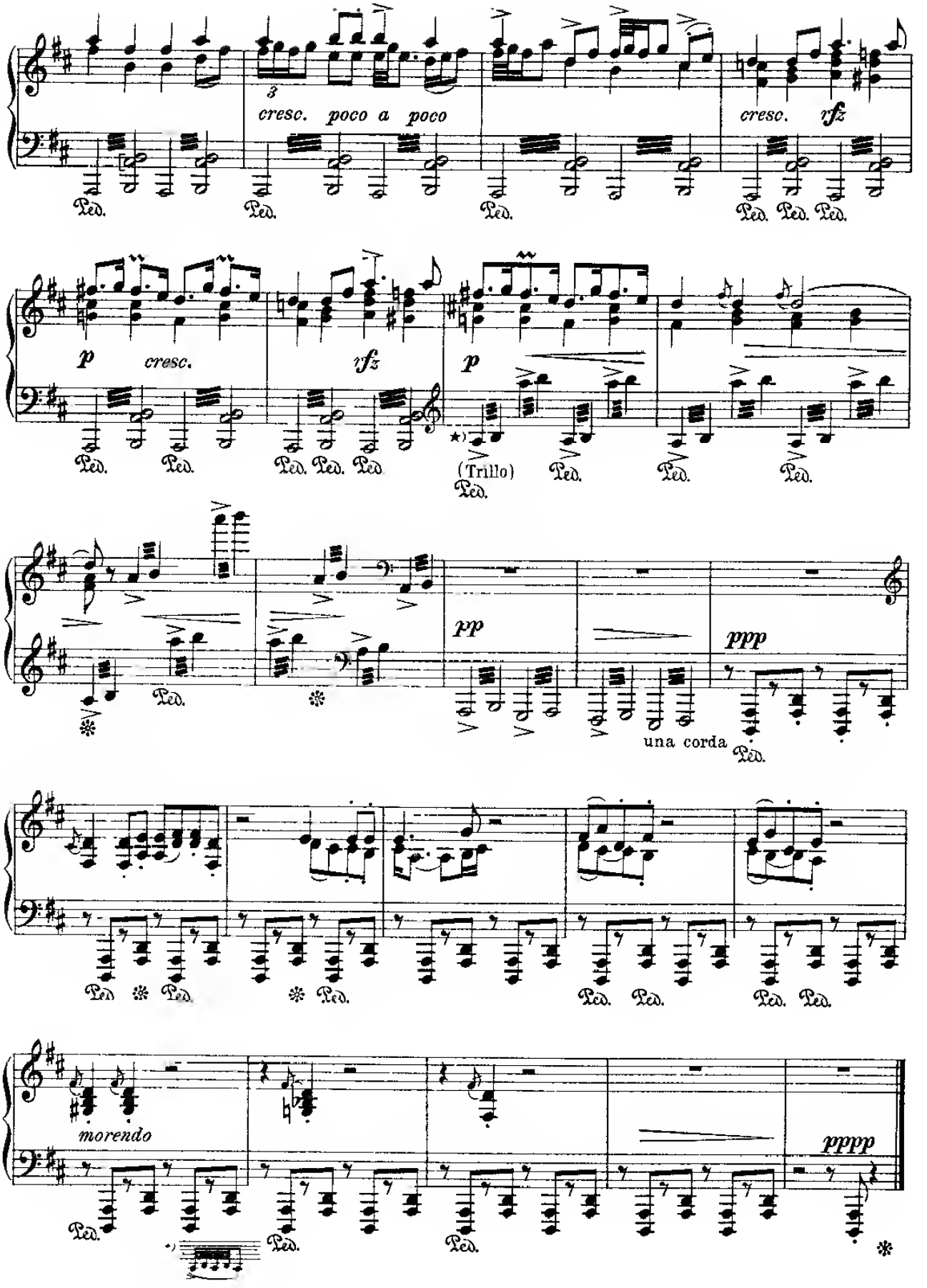
Edvard Grieg.

I. Gibøen's Wedding March

Gibøens bruremarsj—Gibøens Brautmarsch

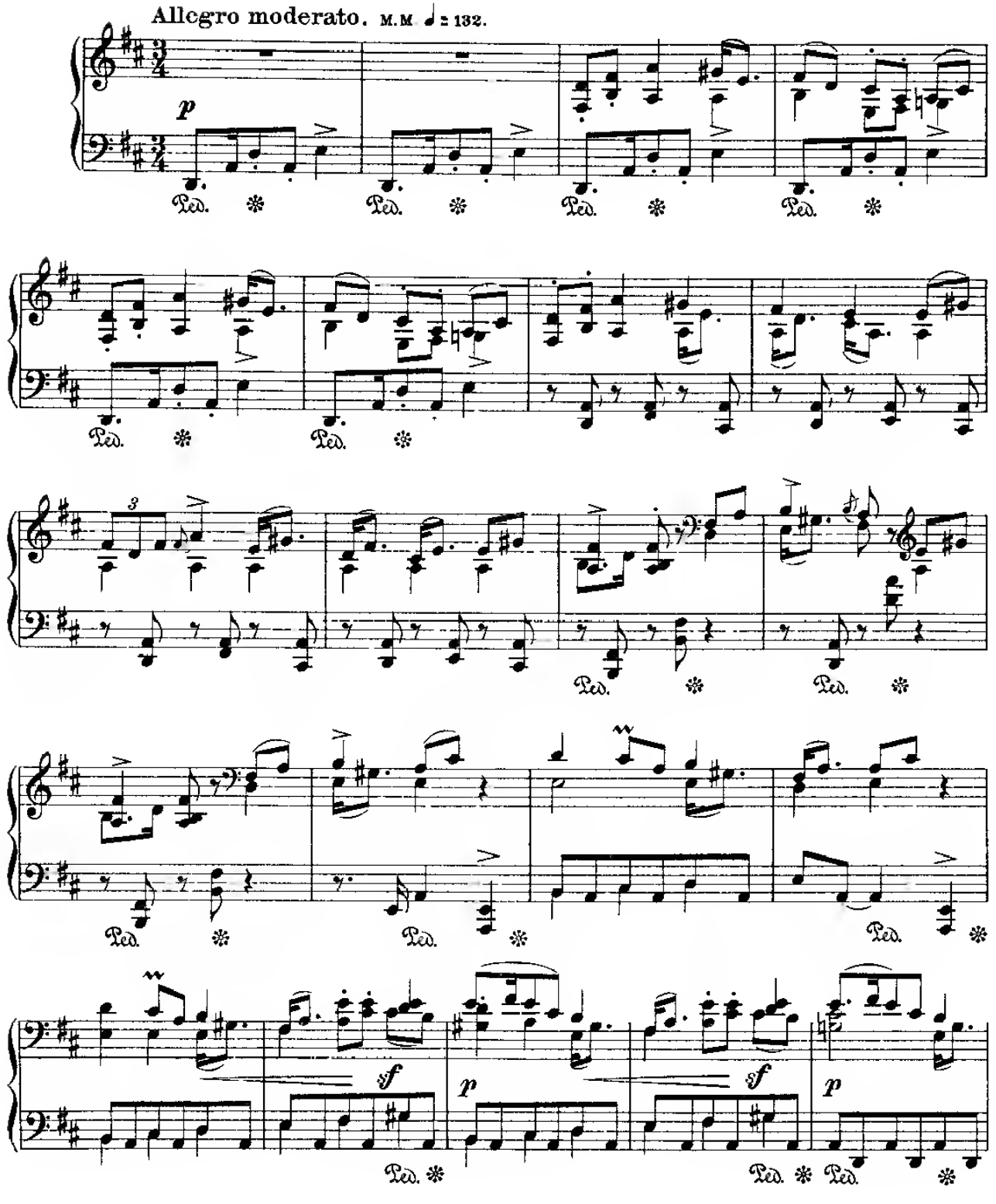


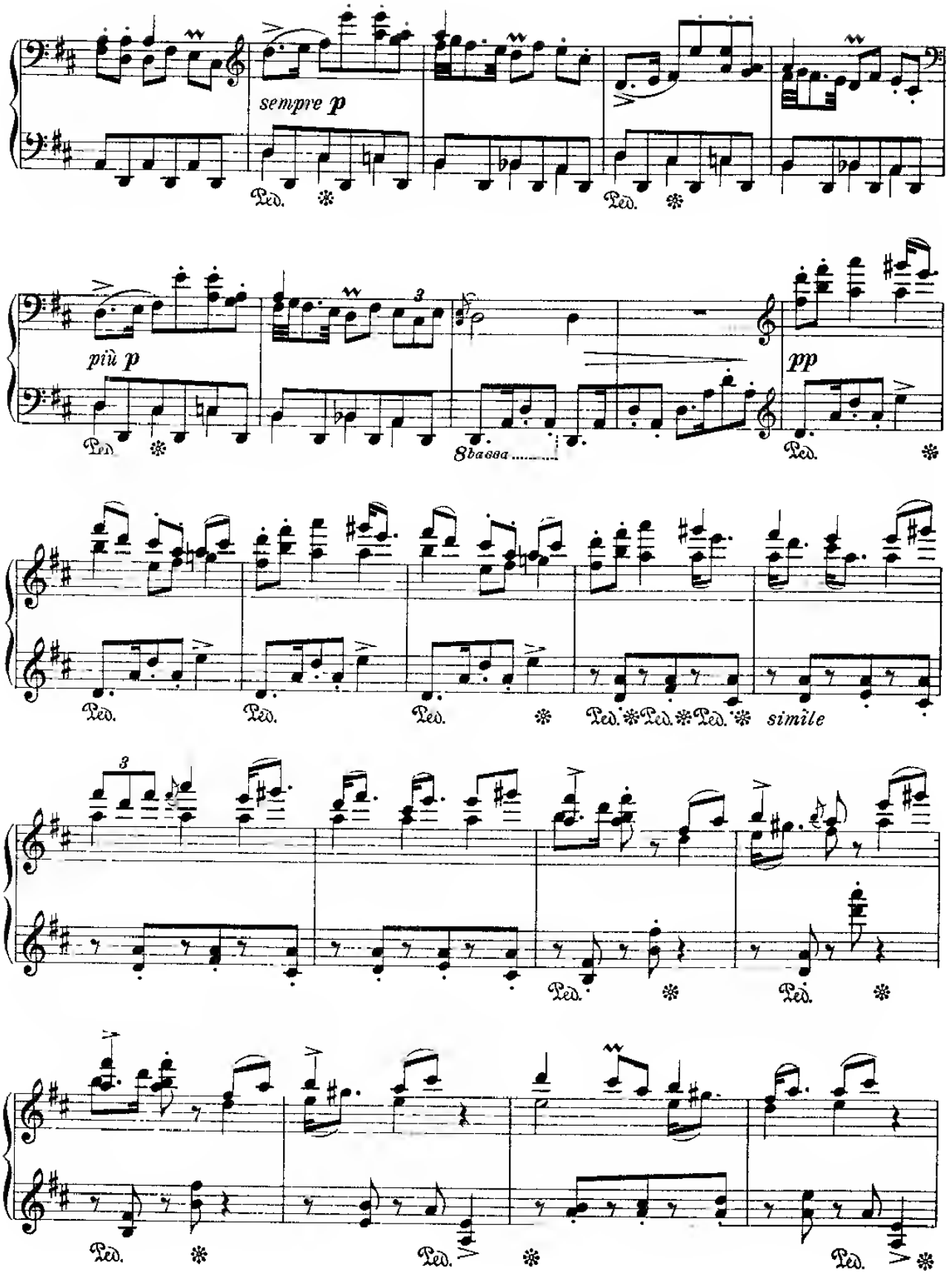

pp
p
ff
p
trem.
una corda
più p
simile
pp
3

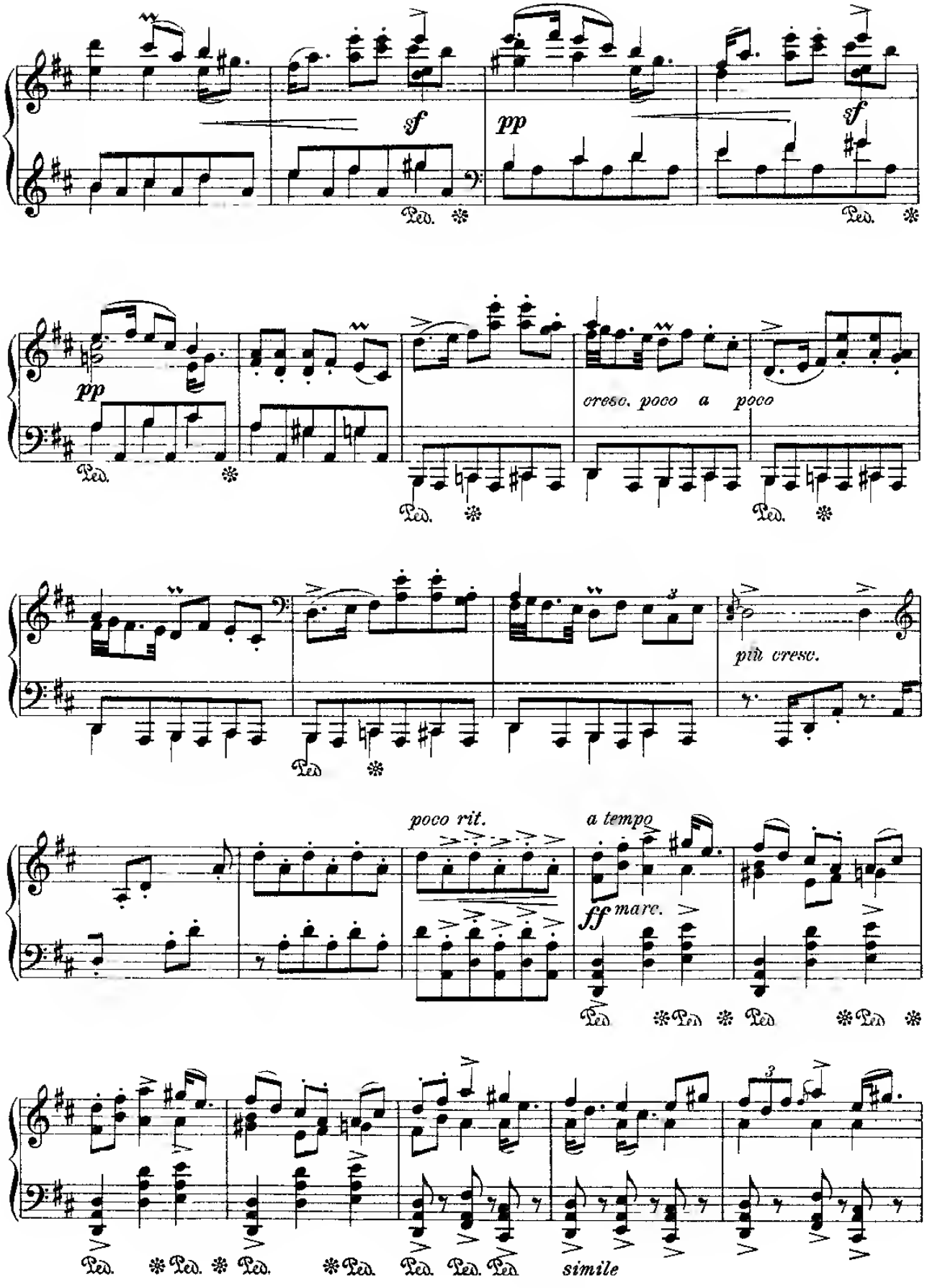

cresc. poco a poco
cresc.
rfz
p
cresc.
rfz
p
(Trillo)
pp
ppp
una corda
morendo
pppp

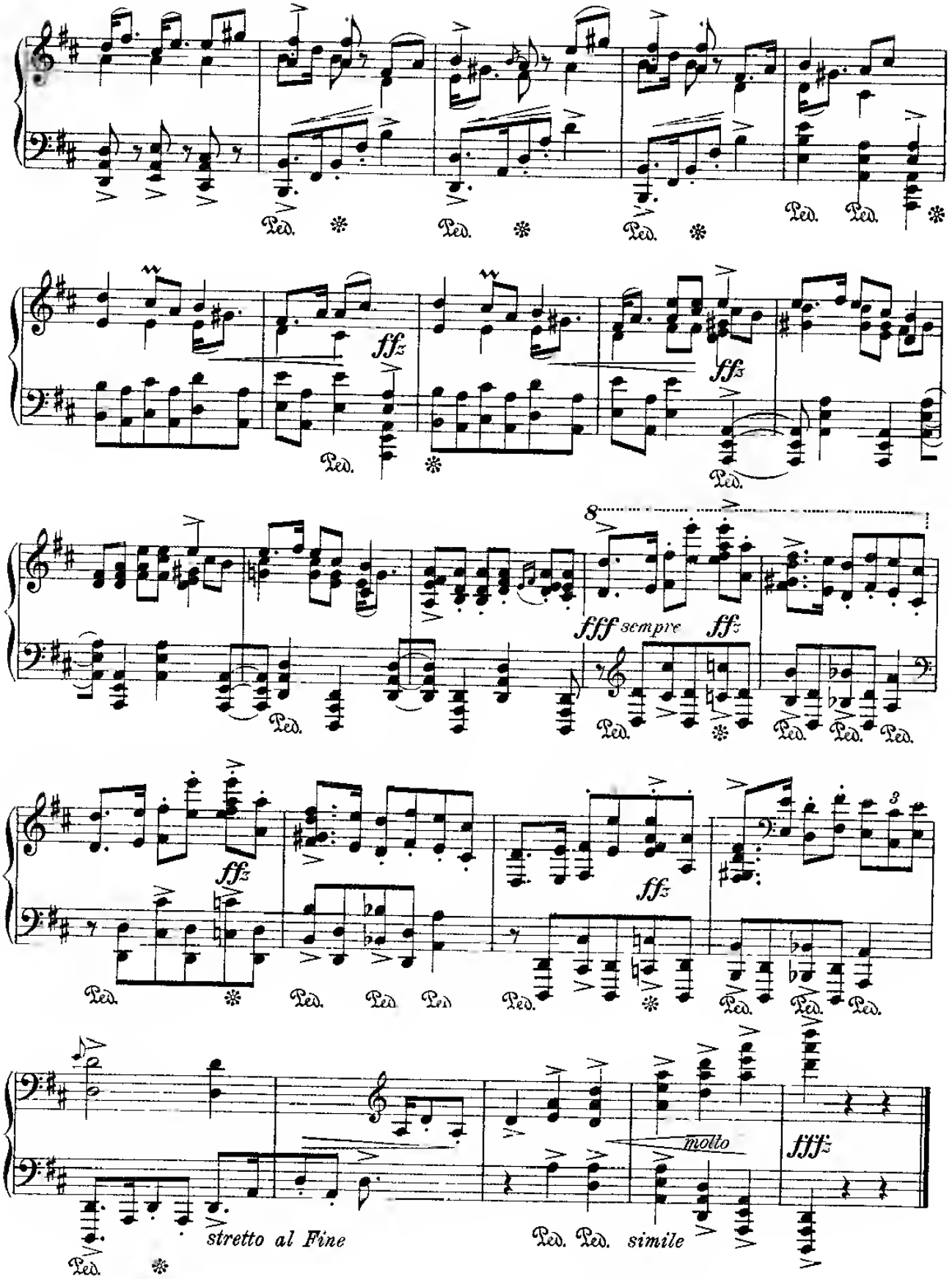
II. Jon Væstafæ's Springar

Jon Væstafæs springdans—Jon Vestafes Springdans



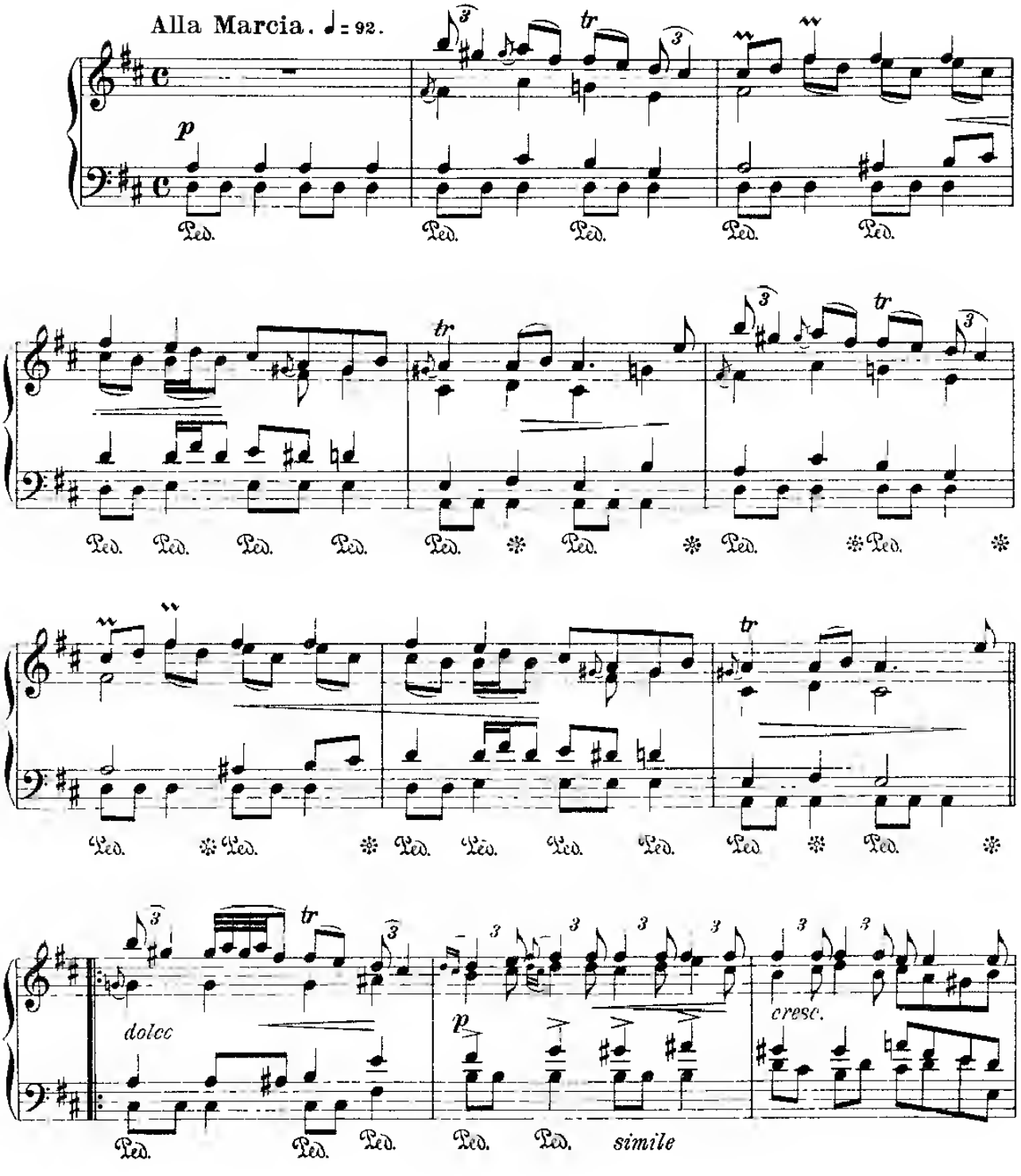

sempre p
Ped.
più p
pp
8bassa
simile

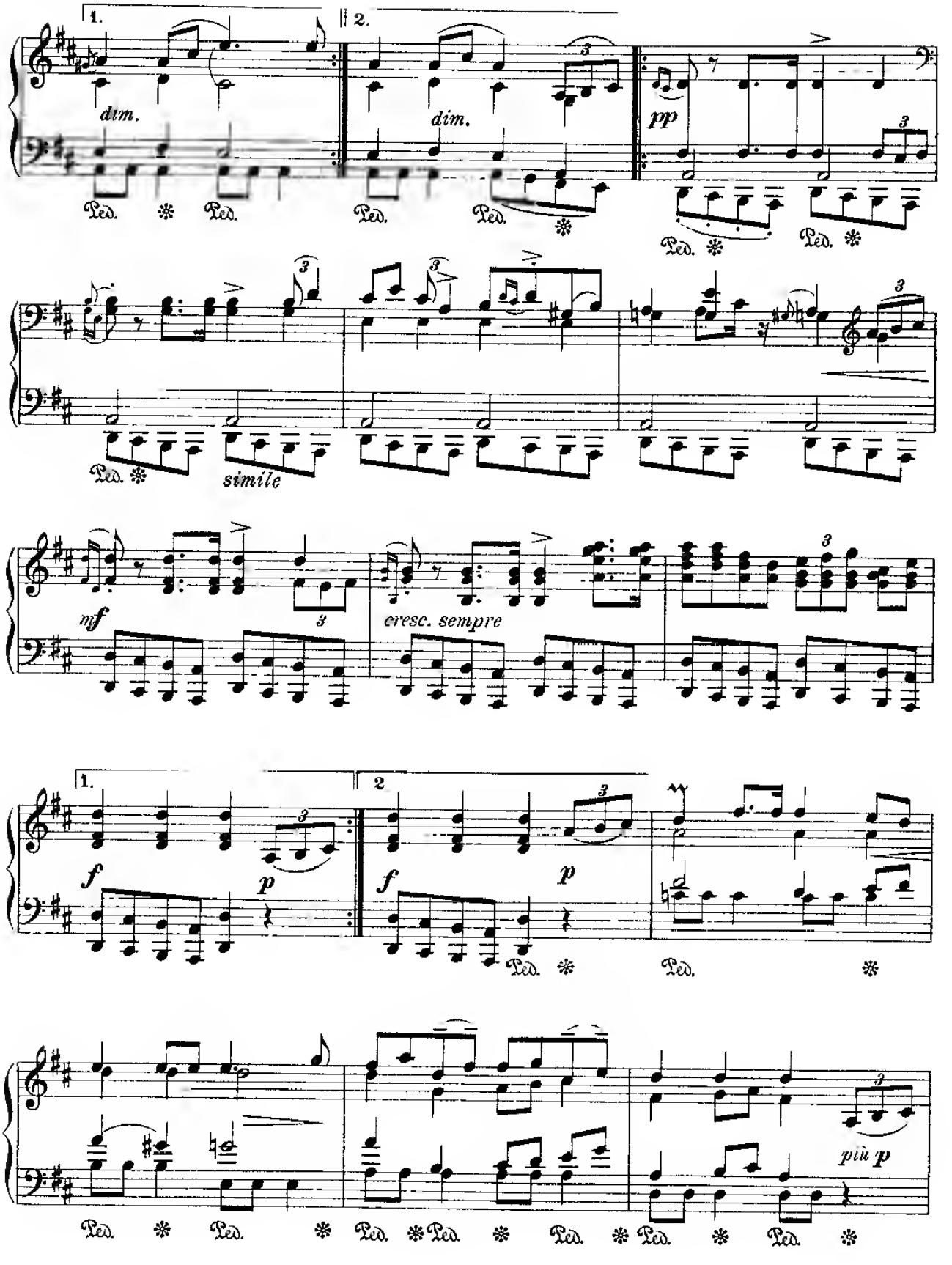

sf
pp
sf
Ped.
Ped.
pp
Ped.
cresc. poco a poco
Ped.
Ped.
più cresc.
Ped
poco rit.
a tempo
ff marc.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
simile

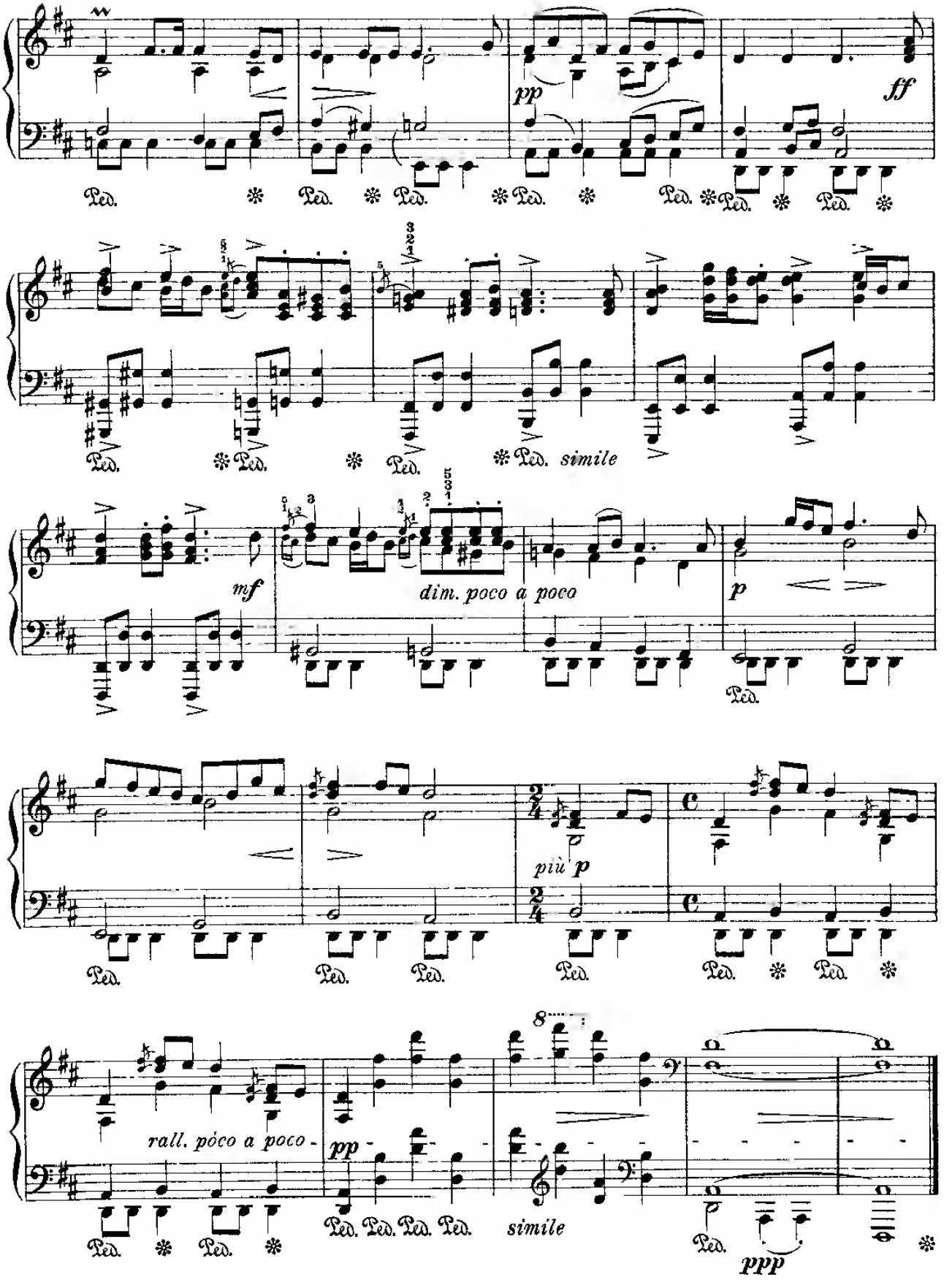

ffz
fff sempre
ffz
ffz
ffz
molto
fffz
stretto al Fine
simile

III. Wedding March from Telemark

Bruremarsj fra Telemark—Brautmarsch aus Telemark




1.
2.
dim.
dim.
pp
Ped.
simile
mf
cresc. sempre
f
p
più p


pp
ff
Ped.
mf
dim. poco a poco
p
più p
rall. poco a poco
pp
simile
ppp